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Major Donald E. Keyhoe, USMC (Ret)
Director
National Investigations Committee
on Aerial Phenomena
1536 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Major Keyhoe:

In response to your letter of 22 September 1958, we have referred it to Major Tacker, Office of Information Services, United States Air Force.

I believe the Air Force is the executive agency and, to the best of our knowledge, the only government agency qualified to speak on the subject of unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Executive Officer

STAT

cc: Major Tacker, USAF

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NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
Major Donald E. Keyhoe, Director
1536 Connecticut Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.
NOrth 7-9434

NICAP
Richard Hall
Elizabeth Ann Kendall

Sept. 22, 1958

STAT [redacted]
Executive Officer
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

STAT [redacted]

With the approval of Board members with whom I have discussed the situation, I am writing again to ask what part the Central Intelligence Agency plays in the official investigation of the unidentified flying objects.

Since January 1953 I have been aware of the fact that the Central Intelligence Agency assembled a group of scientists at the Pentagon to examine the evidence on UFOs and to decide or suggest a course of action. Several months ago I was questioned by an investigator of the McClellan Subcommittee on Government Operations. During one of the several interviews in which I gave the subcommittee a mass of verified evidence, I told the investigator of the 1953 meeting of scientists and suggested that he ask for the copy of the official report.

Later he told me that the Air Force explained that this was not an Air Force document and that they would have to ask the approval of the agency involved. On still another occasion the investigator told me that this had proved to be the Central Intelligence Agency and that he had been sent a summary of the full report, which was classified.

Until that time, the Air Force had officially denied the existence of any such document. However, shortly after I had the verification from the McClellan subcommittee investigator, the Air Force admitted that there was such a document, as I had claimed. Within a short time they released what they said was a summary of the main points, and the conclusions of the scientists. No mention was made of the connection with the Central Intelligence Agency.

Since then, requests for the full report of this group have been refused, on the grounds that the report is classified.

The National Investigations Committee is hereby requesting declassification of this full report so that we may examine the document and the evidence along with the scientists' conclusions.

The Air Force has repeatedly stated that there is absolutely no danger connected with unidentified flying objects. It has also said that there is no classification as regards national security. It has admitted "official use only" classification, which, the Air Force says, is to protect the names of witnesses who do not wish to be publicly listed.

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Since the CIA document is said not to list witnesses' names but to discuss the general problem, there is no reason apparent why it should not be declassified, as requested.

Despite the published conclusions of the 1953 scientists group, we have found that there is an increasing public belief that the UFOs may possibly be unfriendly. We have absolutely no evidence to prove that they are hostile and I cite this only to prove the danger of the present secrecy policy. Secrecy breeds ignorance of the subject and it could lead to hysteria or even panic under certain conditions. I believe that an open discussion of the problem would serve the best interests of the country.

In addition to requesting a copy of the formal report drawn up by the scientists in 1953, NICAP requests an interview with an official of the Central Intelligence Agency who is qualified to speak for the CIA on this subject. It is our belief that a frank discussion of the problems will be of mutual benefit.

In my previous letters, I gave you the name of some of our Board members, including Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, USN (Ret.), who formerly was director of the Central Intelligence Agency. I am sure that Admiral Hillenkoetter, as well as all the members of our Board and our Special Advisers would tell you, if questioned, that they disagree with the present secrecy about unidentified flying objects.

With a membership covering all 49 states and many foreign countries, except those in the USSR, NICAP has, by its serious, factual approach won the attention of many important citizens here and abroad. Our factual press releases have been given serious attention by the press and by newscasters. We are in a position to help citizens in America, and elsewhere, for the facts which eventually will have to be made public. We hope the Central Intelligence Agency will agree to a conference or at least an interview on the various aspects of this problem.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Donald E. Keyhoe

Donald E. Keyhoe, Major USMC (Ret.)

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**Remarks:**

Shall we refer this to the Air Force for reply in accordance with our previous procedures, or do you recommend some other action? Please give me a call and let me know.

This appears to be strictly a policy matter. It would not seem proper however to give the data asked to this organization

RTB

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FORM NO. 237 Replaces Form 30-4 which may be used. (40)

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**Remarks:** 1. I called Major Tacker and he also received a letter, same date, from Keyhoe. Major Tacker will be very glad to answer both letters along the lines he has previously discussed with Keyhoe, i.e., the Air Force is the executive agency and, in fact, the only agency qualified to speak on unidentified flying objects. Furthermore, Major Tacker assures me that he has advised Ke hoe that the remaining portions of the report are not only Secret but do not deal with unidentified flying objects.

2. Both the above statements are true and I suggest we write a letter to Keyhoe telling him that we have referred his letter to Major Tacker's office, USAF. Attached is a suggested reply.

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